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FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK023

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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EYES ONLY CONTAINS CODEWORD WH37510

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TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

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DECEMBER 10, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: EVENING REPORT

MIDDLE EAST SITUATION: EGYPTIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HATIM
ON DECEMBER 8 SAID THAT CAIRO WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE PEACE
CONFERENCE IN GENEVA DESPITE THE BREAKDOWN OF THE TALKS AT
KILOMETER 101. ACCORDING TO A SENIOR EGYPTIAN MILITARY OFFI-
CER, EGYPTIAN FORCES WILL CONTINUE PROBES AGAINST ISRAELI LINES
ON BOTH BANKS OF THE SUEZ CANAL UNTIL CAIRO HAS HAD A CHANCE TO
SIZE UP ISRAEL'S BEHAVIOR AT THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

MORI/CDF
C03342233

DIA and NSA Reviews
Completed

MINOR CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS CONTINUED ON THE EGYPTIAN FRONT
OVER THE WEEKEND. TEN ISRAELI SOLDIERS WERE REPORTEDLY WOUNDED
IN THE MOST SERIOUS OF SEVERAL SMALL-ARMS AND ARTILLERY EXCHANGES
IN THE ISMAILIA AREA. AFTER TWO DAYS OF RELATIVE INACTIVITY,
ISRAELI AIRCRAFT YESTERDAY RESUMED A NORMAL LEVEL OF RECONNAIS-
SANCE, TRANSPORT, AND SUPPORT ACTIVITY ALONG THE SUEZ CANAL.
IN TEL AVIV, A MILITARY SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED ON DECEMBER 8 THAT
2,412 ISRAELI SOLDIERS WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE
OCTOBER WAR. A MONTH AGO, THE NUMBER OF DEAD HAD BEEN PUT AT
1,854.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOP MOVES: THE 232D NVA AAA REGIMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN OPERATING IN SOUTHERN LAOS SINCE MARCH 1972, IS SCHEDULED TO MOVE INTO SOUTH VIETNAM LATER THIS MONTH. THE AIR DEFENSE VOID CREATED BY THE TRANSFER WILL PROBABLY BE FILLED BY THE 595TH AAA REGIMENT, CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF MOVING TO THE SARAVANE AREA. A NEW AAA REGIMENT, THE 45TH, IS BEING FORMED FROM THE 595TH HEADQUARTERS STAFF, WHICH IS SERVING AS A CADRE FOR THE NEW UNIT. THE 45TH IS TO SUPPORT REAR-SERVICE OPERATIONS IN WESTERN QUANG NAM, QUANG TIN, AND KONTUM PROVINCES. THE PENDING SHIFT OF THE 232D AND CREATION OF THE 45TH WILL BRING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF AAA REGIMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM TO 23 -- THE HIGHEST EVER NOTED.

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NORTH VIETNAMESE INFILTRATION: AT LEAST TWO REGULAR INFILTRATION GROUPS BOUND FOR COSVN HAVE BEEN NOTED THIS MONTH IN THE VINH AREA AWAITING ORDERS TO START SOUTH. ONE ADDITIONAL GROUP WITH THE SAME DESTINATION WAS DETECTED ON NOVEMBER 28. GAPS IN THE SEQUENTIAL NUMBERING SYSTEM SUGGEST THAT TWO OTHERS ARE EITHER EN ROUTE THERE OR AWAITING ORDERS. THESE FIVE GROUPS COULD PROVIDE SOME 2,500 COMBAT PERSONNEL TO THE COSVN AREA BY FEBRUARY. ONLY ONE GROUP WITH 600 PERSONNEL HAS BEEN DETECTED THUS FAR THIS DRY SEASON HEADED FOR THE B-3 FRONT. IF THE ANNOUNCED SCHEDULED OF 19 GROUPS PER MONTH IS MAINTAINED, AT LEAST 13 MORE WITH A TOTAL OF AT LEAST 6,500 PERSONNEL WOULD BE EXPECTED DURING THE REMAINDER OF DECEMBER.

REPLACEMENT OF AAA WEAPONS: CONTINUING ANALYSIS OF [REDACTED] PHOTOGRAPHS OF SEPTEMBER 30 AND NOVEMBER 16 SHOWS A BUILDUP OF AAA GUNS AT THE TRIENG XEN ARTILLERY PARKS, ABOUT 35 NAUTICAL MILES SOUTHWEST OF HANOI. SOME 265 AAA WEAPONS WERE NOTED AT THE INSTALLATION, INCLUDING 12 14.5-MM ZPU-4S AND 13 14.5-MM ZPU-2S AS WELL AS 212 37-MM, 18 57-MM, AND 10 85-MM AAA GUNS. IN ADDITION, 100- AND 130-MM FIELD ARTILLERY PIECES WERE PRESENT. WHEN COMBINED WITH THE 266 AAA WEAPONS PHOTO-

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GRAPHED ON NOVEMBER 8 AT THE BAN DAT RAILROAD SIDING EAST OF THAI NGUEYEN, THIS LARGE CONCENTRATION OF WEAPONS INDICATES THAT AT LEAST 531 AAA WEAPONS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO NORTH VIETNAM SINCE THE JANUARY CEASE-FIRE. THEY ARE UNDOUBTEDLY INTENDED TO REPLACE OLDER AND DAMAGED EQUIPMENT.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN LAO PANHANDLE: DURING OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, ENGINEERS IMPROVED OR WIDENED ABOUT 25 MORE MILES OF THE PROJECTED 300-MILE ROAD IN THE LAOTIAN PANHANDLE. CONSTRUCTION HAS PROGRESSED ON THE SOUTHERNMOST PORTION NEAR THE TRI-BORDER AREA, WHERE A SEGMENT WILL PROBABLY BE LINKED TO THE HIGHLANDS CORRIDOR IN SOUTH VIETNAM. EXTENSIVE USE OF PONTOON BRIDGES HAS BEEN DETECTED FOR THE FIRST TIME. AT LEAST THREE ARE INSTALLED OR UNDER CONSTRUCTION. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, THE SOUTHWARD MOVEMENT OF REGIMENTAL-SIZE SERVICE UNITS HAS CONTINUED. THESE ACTIVITIES SUGGEST THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE PREPARING TO MOVE SIZABLE QUANTITIES OF SUPPLIES SOUTHWARD DURING THIS DRY SEASON.

AUSTRIA CLOSES SCHOENAU TRANSIT CAMP: THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT TODAY CLOSED THE SCHOENAU TRANSIT CAMP, THEREBY FULFILLING ITS

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PROMISE TO ARAB GUERRILLAS. ALL JEWS ARRIVING FROM THE SOVIET UNION NOW WILL BE TAKEN TO WOLLERSDORF, SOME 25 MILES SOUTH OF VIENNA, WHERE THEY WILL BE LOOKED AFTER BY THE AUSTRIAN RED CROSS.

BAHAMAS COURT REJECTS BID FOR VESCO EXTRADITION: THE PRESIDING

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MAGISTRATE IN THE BAHAMAS DISMISSED FRIDAY THE U.S. REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION OF ROBERT VESCO. THE JUDGE BASED HIS JUDGEMENT ON TWO ELEMENTS: (1) THE ALLEGED OFFENSE (WIRE FRAUD) WAS NOT AN EXTRADITABLE OFFENSE, AND (2) EVEN IF IT WERE, THE U.S. FAILED TO MAKE A PRIMA FACIE CASE. THE COURT ALSO ORDERED THAT VESCO'S PASSPORT BE RETURNED AND BAIL REFUNDED. THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF APPEALING THE COURT'S FINDING.
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